

Appl. No. : 10/540,319
Filed : June 21, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.
Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-16 without prejudice and added new Claims 17-29.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (New) A breast scanning device comprising:
an endless loop structure configured to move along an endless loop, the endless loop structure comprising a movable upper surface over which a breast is to be placed;
an ultrasonic probe fixed to the endless loop structure and movable along with the movable upper surface; and
a compressor comprising a compressor surface opposing the movable upper surface and configured to move the compressor surface toward the movable upper surface to press the breast that is placed over the movable upper surface.
18. (New) The device of Claim 17, wherein the ultrasonic probe is movable in a scanning direction of the breast scanning device.

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19. (New) The device of Claim 18, wherein the ultrasonic probe is elongated and is fixed to the endless loop structure to extend in a direction generally perpendicular to the scanning direction.

20. (New) The device of Claim 17, wherein the endless loop comprises a linear portion and two curved portions, each of which is connected at an end of the linear portion.

21. (New) The device of Claim 20, wherein the movable upper surface comprises a substantially planar portion.

22. (New) The device of Claim 22, further comprising a roller configured to rotate and cause to move the endless loop structure.

23. (New) The device of Claim 22, further comprising a support configured to support a portion of the endless loop structure so as to make at least part of the movable upper surface substantially planar.

24. (New) The device of Claim 23, wherein the support is not movable.

25. (New) The device of Claim 17, wherein the endless loop structure comprises a belt or a caterpillar track.

26. (New) A method of scanning a breast, the method of comprising:

providing the breast scanning device of Claim 17;

placing a breast of a person between the movable upper surface and the compressor surface;

moving the endless loop structure along the endless loop, thereby moving the ultrasonic probe in a scanning direction; and

ultrasonically scanning the breast using the ultrasonic probe while moving the ultrasonic probe in the scanning direction.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the endless loop comprises a linear portion and two curved portions, each of which is connected at an end of the linear portion.

28. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the scanning direction is substantially parallel to the linear portion.

29. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein a gel pad is located between the breast and the movable upper surface.